**Trafficking in Women**

3337. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Footpath par rahne wali larkiyian veshyavirti ki shikar" appearing in the Delhi edition of 'Navbharat Times' dated December 2, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of such incidents come to the notice of the Government during the last three years and till date;

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(e) whether the Union Government are contemplating to formulate any scheme for the welfare of the prostitutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has noted the contents of the news item which refers to the findings of a survey of street children indicating that street girl-children suffer destitution and neglect and are in danger of being forced into prostitution.

(c) The incidence of crimes in the entire country reported under the provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 for the last three years by the National Crime Records Bureau is as under :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1994 | - | 7547 |
| 1995 | - | 6756 |
| 1996 | - | 5680 |

(d) to (f) With a view to support and strengthen voluntary organisations to provide integrated community based, non-institutional, basic services for the welfare and development of street children, the Government started the Scheme for the Welfare of street children in 1993-94. The focus under the scheme is on reduction of exploitation and abuse and withdrawal of children engaged in hazardous street work. Under this scheme appropriate interventions are initiated for children particularly girls to integrate them in their respective families and facilitate their participation in formal primary education. Efforts are directed at enhancing their educational level and providing vocational training for equipping them with productive skills for adult life.

Besides schemes for training, employment and income generation like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Setting up of Training-cum-Production Centres (NORAD), Socio-Economic Programme (SEP), TRYSEM and DWACRA are implemented in source areas for the welfare and rehabilitation of prostitutes. In some of the redlight areas Integrated Child Development Services Scheme has been launched. The Government has an extensive network of Short Stay Homes and homes set up under the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 for protection and rehabilitation of the victims of prostitution.

**Soil Conservation in Sikkim**

3338. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Government of Sikkim and Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council have submitted any scheme relating to soil erosion, for getting central assistance, during last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Union Government have not received any scheme relating to soil erosion from the Government of Sikkim and Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council for Central assistance during last 3 years.

(b) Does not arise.

**Foreign Suppliers of Defence Hardware and Equipments**

3339. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether major foreign supliers of defence hardware and equipments have set up liaison offices in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government deals with those liaison offices;

(c) if so, the names of the liaison offices with their principles known to the Government;

(d) whether the liaison offices acts as middlemen and their chief receive a part of their emoluments in terms of their coutracts they secure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e) Major foreign suppliers of defence hardware and equipment establish liaison offices in India based on their corporate policies. The policy on foreign commercial entities setting up representative offices is determined and implemented by the Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Finance. In so far as the purchase of weapons and weapon systems is concerned, the Government policy is to deal directly with the original equipment manufacturers.